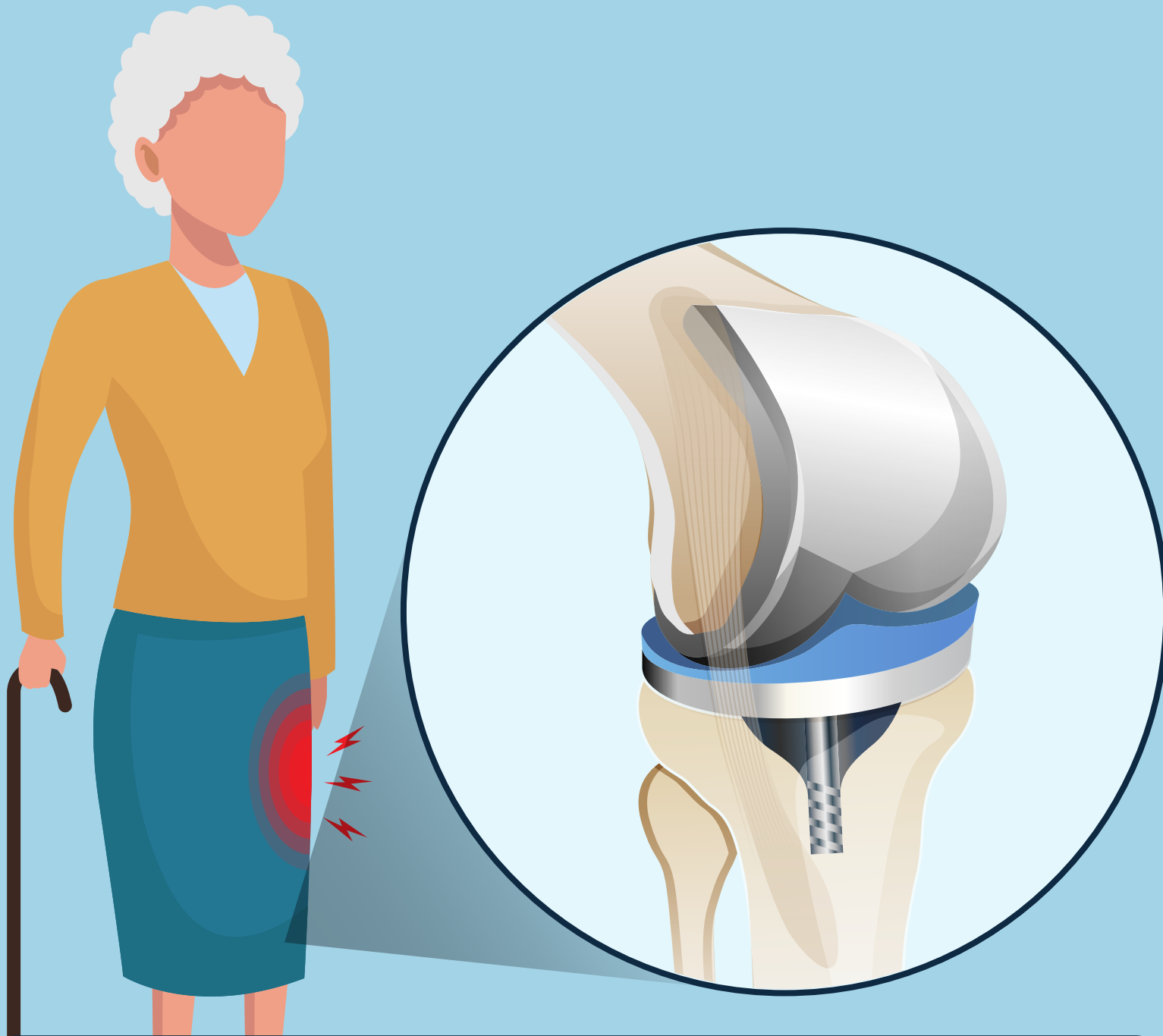


# Etiology of Thigh Pain After Total Knee Arthroplasty

Thigh pain is commonly reported by patients who have undergone total knee arthroplasty (TKA)



The etiology of this pain has not been determined even in patients without tourniquet use

Prospective randomized controlled trial with 97 subjects undergoing TKA

| Trial groups | Tourniquet use | Intramedullary (IM) rod use |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| n = 97       | ✓              | ✓                           |
| n = 29       | ✗              | ✓                           |
| n = 20       | ✓              | ✗                           |
| n = 19       | ✗              | ✗                           |

Assessed for:



Knee and thigh pain

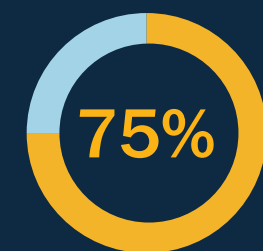


Knee motion range

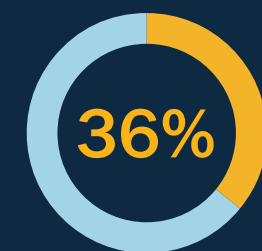


Quadriceps strain (by MRI)

Postoperative day 1

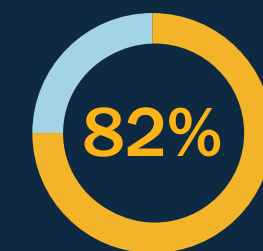


75% had thigh pain

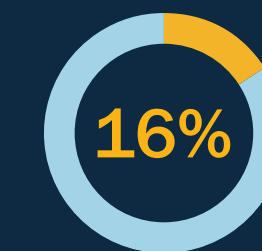


36% quadriceps strain (by MRI)

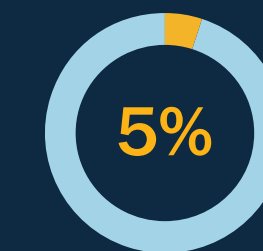
2-week clinical visit



82% with thigh pain had MRI-confirmed quadriceps strain

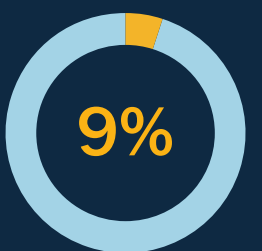


16% had thigh pain



5% reported more thigh pain than knee pain after TKA

6-week clinical visit



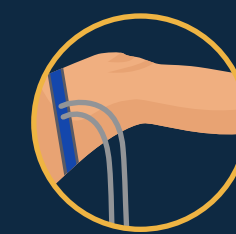
9% had thigh pain

Prevalence of postoperative thigh pain

Increased with:



MRI-confirmed quadriceps strain



Tourniquet use

No change with:



IM rod use



Demographic factors

Thigh pain after TKA has multifactorial origins and is partly related to the strain of quadriceps muscle

Quadriceps Strain and TKA: Contribution of the Tourniquet and Intramedullary Rod to Postoperative Thigh Pain: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Stocks et al. (2023) | DOI: 10.2106/JBJS.22.00703

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